

From courses to attendance to evaluation:

USHERING IN A TECH FUTURE

Courier Bureau

Leveraging information technology, Osmania University has taken a slew of measures to usher in an era of automation. Some of the transformed operations include the online application system for entrance exams, online evaluation of semester exam answer scripts, online application and payment portal for certificates, and biometric attendance system.

Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram, having successfully implemented major IT initiatives for the State government, has been leading the drive from the front.

For the first time, the University will switch to online evaluation of answer scripts, doing away with conventional manual evaluation. To begin with, this will be operationalised for 80,000 answer scripts of the MBA second semester examinations. Once this process becomes a success, the online evaluation would be extended to all undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

The administration is of the view that online evaluation would help the University announce results faster, without errors, and also curb malpractices.

Student info system

Students of Arts College can now pay fee and apply for bonafide and transfer certificates on the upgraded portal osmaniaerp.com. The College has set up an online information system, which puts the entire student database at the fingertips of the administration, thus eliminating a lot of paperwork and saving time.

Prof. D. Ravinder, Principal, Arts College, said the student-related information has been uploaded onto the portal already and that Departments would be given access. Similar system would be put in place in other colleges also.

Biometric attendance

All colleges under Osmania University's jurisdiction will have to introduce biometric attendance system, following a direction from the University administration.

At a meeting of 160 Principals / Correspondents of affiliated colleges recently, Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram gave colleges a month's time to procure and install the biometric equipment from the Telangana State Technology Services, with which the University has an MoU.

The biometric attendance system is considered a fool-proof mechanism, as it requires a staff member / student to put her / his thumb on the scanner. The system registers the attendance along with date and time of signing-in. This system is already functional for non-teaching staff in various colleges, including Arts College.

Centre for Cyber Security

Telangana's first Centre for Cyber Security and Cyber Law, carrying out research and offering specialised courses, is all set to come up at the University.

After setting up the centre, the University intends to offer M. Tech. in Cyber Security, besides adding a special subject to the existing undergraduate B.E. courses. The courses will be offered jointly by the University College of Engineering and University College of Law.

"There is an urgent need for cybersecurity and cyber law professionals across the country. The new centre will train and develop such professionals besides taking up research activities in these subjects. The centre will be operational in a year," Prof. S. Ramachandram, Vice-Chancellor, said.



Apart from improving efficiency, these initiatives will help us take the right decision and the right time.

PROF. S. RAMACHANDRAM
VICE CHANCELLOR

EMRC launches three online courses, more in the offing

Hanifa Yasmeen

Educational Multimedia Research Centre at Osmania University has successfully launched three online courses on the Swayam platform.

These free courses are in Public Administration and Social Work subjects, and have been available since July this year.

Prof. Karnam Narender, Director, EMRC, said, "Around 625 students have registered for these courses since the launch. Four more courses are scheduled to be launched in October."

According to Prof. Narender, EMRC has already received sanction for 18 courses from the Consortium for Educational Communication under the re-purposed category.

"Plans are afoot to take up MOOCs [Massive Open Online Courses] in a big way through some fresh proposal to CEC and MHRD," he said.

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OU figures in QS India Universities Ranking

Osmania University has secured 34th position among the top 75 ranked higher education institutions in India in the latest ranking put out by Quacquarelli Symonds. The University scored maximum points in 'staff with PhD', 'papers per faculty' and 'international student ratio'. Earlier, the University cemented its position in 801-1,000 bracket in the latest world university rankings put out by UK-based *Times Higher Education*. Within Asia, OU figures in the 251-300 bracket.



PIC: WIRED.COM

Signs MoU with Malaysian varsity

The University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Lincoln University College (LUC), Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, for research, faculty exchange and dual degree programmes.

Osmania Model Village programme

Helping villagers help themselves

S. Samyuktha

It is payback time for Osmania University alumni. The past students' association is actively collaborating with the University to help villages become self-reliant.

The programme, christened 'Osmania Model Villages', is in pilot phase in Samalonibavi village of Gurrampode mandal in Nalgonda district.

After extensive discussions with villagers and briefings about the project, research teams are set to undertake a survey. The findings of the survey will provide policy inputs to transform the village under the central government's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme.

Apart from this, the University is also documenting the genesis, history, culture, agriculture, livestock and watershed management of the selected villages.

The idea was conceived on 26 March 2017 by the Osmania Alumni Committee during the University's centenary celebra-



Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram at Samalonibavi village

PIC: BY ARRANGEMENT

tions. A group of Osmania alumni decided to form a committee. Subsequently, on 27 April 2017, during the inaugural of the Centenary celebrations, the final contours were given shape in consultation with prominent alumni including Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra, Osmania University officials and other elders of the alumni committee.

Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ra-

machandram announced the same day that 100 villages would be adopted under the programme. It was formally launched on 25 April 2018 during closing ceremony of centenary celebrations.

The programme is undertaken in four phases. In Phase I, a village is identified and the local people are primed for self-development. In Phase II, investigators are identified and

trained to enable them to assess ground conditions. In Phase III, surveys are conducted of all the households in the selected village. And finally, in Phase IV, the collected data is analysed and research papers identifying gaps in the village are published.

G-Cot is helping with surveys and in connecting with the villagers with the government, nodal agencies, institutions and corporates. The National Institute of Rural Development, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission have extended support to G-Cot and the alumni committee.

Once the pilot study is complete, this process will be standardised and the next five villages would be adopted under the programme. Each model village will have coordinators to motivate and sensitise people. Further, it will have village-level empowerment teams, self-help groups and cooperative societies to work for development.

'Let's work together for this glorious institution'

Deepika Pasham

Since taking over as the Principal of Arts College about a year ago, Prof. D. Ravinder has been pushing a series of initiatives touching upon administration, academics and student affairs.

"My instructions and harsh decisions have brought about a phenomenal change in the Arts College," said Prof. Ravinder in an interview to *Courier*.

Among the "harsh decisions" is the insistence that students should clear their hostel dues to get hall tickets, semester memos or other certificates from the administration. The same strict approach is also brought to matters of punctuality of faculty members and marking of student attendance.

"I detected problems at the very beginning of my day in the office as Principal. There is no discipline among students, and Professors are not taking classes regularly. There are distracting banners on the walls of the College," Prof. Ravinder said.

"In the history of Arts College, I think I took steps like booking 31 PG students and 11 candidates in Pre-PhD course work exam for malpractice."

Prof. Ravinder said he spoke to all the students and convinced them to attend classes. He also suggested to the student organisations to celebrate birth-days of great philosophers.

The Principal, who served in



Prof. D. Ravinder, Principal, University College of Arts & Social Sciences.

PIC: C SANJAY KUMAR

PG College Secunderabad earlier, arranged a ten-day programme for the non-teaching staff on using information technology. "They were trained in office communication, auditing accounts and etiquette."

The Principal also organised a cultural fest for international students, which was well-received among the significant section of students who hail from Africa, West and South Asian countries.

"There are two other programmes that I am working on, namely, a discussion forum and a festival of ideas," Prof. Ravinder said.

"I want to have affinity as my principle. I don't want to impose my ideas on anyone. I would like to take inputs from everyone. Let us work together for this glorious institution," he said.

It's too little, too late, say Govt job seekers

Girish D.

It's been almost five years since Telangana has been born, but the fate of the unemployed youth has not changed, feel a majority of the Osmania University students.

'Neellu,' 'nidhulu,' 'niyamakalu' (Water, funds and jobs) is the popular slogan for the Telangana movement. The term *niyamakalu* has attracted several unemployed youth to participate in the movement. Subsequently, after the formation of Telangana, all political parties promised jobs in their election manifestos, thus creating high hopes among the unemployed youth.

Cut to the present. After almost four-and-a-half years of the new government, the unemployed youth feel that the government has not fulfilled its promises.

Praveen, who has been prepa-

ring for recruitment examinations for the last two years, says, "Probably this is the first time in the history of our country that a government is going for elections without appointing a single employee through Groups [i.e., administrative cadre] exams."

Satheesh, a Group 2 aspirant, says: "Apart from police and school teacher jobs, the government has not released any Groups related notifications, except for Group 2. Even that is in the hands of High Court because of the irresponsibility in conducting the exam by TSPSC. This has led to an agonising wait for the aspirants."

Though the government has released many notifications for different jobs, the qualifications required for these are specialised or professional degrees, not for the general degree. This is leading to frustration among many unem-

ployed youth, opines Naresh, an MLISc student.

In the recently conducted VRO examination, around seven lakh students wrote the examination for 700 posts. This reflects how big the unemployment problem is in our state, says another student who has been preparing for recruitment examinations for last four years.

Some students suggest that it would be better if the TSPSC releases annual calendar for exams like the UPSC. This helps the aspirants to prepare accordingly, or choose alternative careers in the private sector if there are fewer vacancies, instead of waiting for notifications and wasting their valuable money and time.

With the new zonal system having been approved recently, some candidates are hopeful of more notifications.

'Master the subject to crack JRF'

Sujeeth Kumar Bagade

The UGC-NET examination results this August brought cheer to quite a few students as they qualified for the prestigious Junior Research Fellowship. Given the growing number of aspirants each year, *Courier* speaks to few of the qualified candidates to ascertain their *mantra* for success in the exam.

Deepak Pawar (MCJ, 2011-13): It took me ten attempts to crack JRF, though I qualified NET in my ninth attempt. Devote 30% of study time to Paper 1 and 70% to mass communication. First and foremost thing you should study is your class notes and books which give you all the basic knowledge. Electronic and print media are areas where the questions

are so simple yet candidates goof up on it. Keval J Kumar's Mass Communication in India gives an overview of the field. The big two are Mass Communication Research by Wimmer and Domnick and Mass Communication Theory by Davis and Baran. Make a theory book with a general idea of the theory, a short note of the theory compressed in a small pocket book. Five Ws of every media and media organizations, even the smallest of media houses, writing and memorizing will help you in remembering the exact details of different media.

G. Omprakash Reddy (MCJ 2013-15): If we know how to read a book, what points to grab, then that is the key to success in competitive exam. I seriously focused on the syllabus topics, revised pre-

vious papers, followed standard books. Aspirants of UGC-NET must mainly focus on the syllabus. Many candidates find Paper 1 easy. The main scoring then lies in Papers 2 and 3. The more subject knowledge one has the more one can gain marks. UGC-NET Aspirants can follow Arihant book for reference. Apart from this they can depend on other standard books and internet for reference.

Rana Ashish Chauhan (MCJ 2015-17): I focused more on Paper 1. To be frank I did not spend much time on NET. Wholeheartedly I used to allocate three-four hours or sometimes only two hours. But in that too I gave a max pull to gain the subject. My only advice to the aspirants is to concentrate to your level best not count on number of hours.

Award for Prof. VVB Rao

Prof. V.V. Basava Rao, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, University College of Technology, has received the Ideal Teacher Award 2018. The award was presented at a ceremony on October 2. He is also a recipient of Young Scientist award from AP State Council for Science & Technology.

UCT students bag prize

Students from the University College of Technology won a Rs. 10,000 cash prize for their paper presented at chemEtempor and chemEvision events as part of Technozion competition at National Institute of Technology, Warangal.

EMRC: More courses in the offing

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The three courses that are being offered currently are 'Introduction to Public Administration' coordinated by Dr. Jhansi and presented by Prof. Y. Pardhasaradhy; 'Social Case Work' coordinated by Dr. Kanakadurga and presented by Ms. Eshwari, and 'Social Work Research' coordinated by Prof. Lal Das and presented by Ms. Suma.

The University Grants Commission provides Rs 5.4 lakh by way of budgetary support for a repurposed course and Rs 9 lakh for a new proposal. The MHRD is planning to do 789 more such courses on a priority basis as part of an ongoing online effort, Prof. Narender told *Courier*.

Each course will have 40 to 60 modules divided into a minimum of four quadrants: Video Lectures (shared on YouTube), E-content, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and References.

PG on campus is a different ball-game, say freshers

Tanushree Das

Between the years of high school and graduation, girls and boys turn into young women and men, but live by-and-large in a sheltered setting. Post-graduation is really the time when they are on their own.

Osmania Courier speaks to a cross-section of campus students, fresh out of degree colleges, on what they make of their time here.

"The enthusiasm and zeal always shoot up once you enter PG. You meet new people, explore yourself and learn a lot," says Girish.

"There are very knowledgeable people in my class. I am learning

something new from them everyday. I am a bit confused about career, but I like PG," says Bhargavi.

Another student Sandeep says: "Some people opt for postgraduation just to postpone real life issues and decisions as the journey is not always clear-cut."

"At degree level, things are comparatively easy-going and people jovial. But in masters, people are much more focused. PG is more about personal interest as there is less pressure than UG, at least in my case and I feel happier doing my PG," says Sai Datta.

Some feel PG is more a hands-on experience steeped in reality, while for some it involves tak-



PIC COPYRIGHT: DECCAN CHRONICLE

ing more responsibility. "Now that I am in PG, this is a career-shifting phase for me. I feel more responsible. I want to contribute my bit to the society," says Sanjay.

"I liked my degree years. It was like heaven to me, there was no pressure. PG is challenging, especially for those who stay in hostels," reveals Ramakrishna.

The idea of getting a PG is like jumping in a pool of thoughts! Fear, doubts, ideas, hopes, and plans are all a part of it.

Briefly

History Department turns 100

The Department of History is celebrating completion of 100 years of its existence this year, and has lined up a slew of seminars, workshops, and lectures. The Department is preparing to host South Indian History Congress in February next, where Human Resource Development minister Prakash Javadekar will be the chief guest. "We are expecting 2,000 to 3,000 delegates, including students and alumni of the Department who are now in IAS, IPS and similar positions," said Prof. K. Arjun Rao, Head. The Department has already held a national symposium on Temple Culture in Deccan recently.

-- Deepika Pasham

New hostel coming up for Nizam College girls

A new hostel building with 60 rooms is coming up for girl students of Nizam College. Once complete, the Rs. 6.25-crore modern building will accommodate at least 200 students. Kadiyam Srihari, deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Education, recently laid the foundation stone for the premises, fulfilling a long-pending need. Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority will contribute Rs. 5 crore while the University will bear Rs. 1.25 crore.

-- S. Samyuktha

Demand for funds from SC/ST sub-plan

Prof. Gali Vinod Kumar, Director, SC/ST Cell, has demanded funds for the University under SC/ST sub-plan, saying it could be utilised for the development of staff and students from SC and ST communities. He lamented that there has not been a single Vice Chancellor from these communities in 100 years of the University's existence.

-- Courier Bureau

Prof. M. Kumar takes over as Principal, UCE

Prof. M. Kumar, who was Controller of Examinations, Osmania University, till recently has been appointed as Principal, University College of Engineering, on 3 November. Prof. Kumar, from the Department of Civil Engineering, was recently awarded Best Teacher Award by the State government and also Best Engineer Award from the Institution of Engineers.

-- Courier Bureau

Scholars decry denial of Dalits' contribution to movements

Yempalli Bhargavi

Dalits have been at the forefront of many social movements including the one for Telangana statehood, but their role has been forgotten now, said several speakers at the one-day national symposium on 'Dalit Movements in Telangana' organised by the Department of History, Osmania University.

In his keynote address, Prof. Y.B. Satyanarayana said: "Without Dalits, there has been no movement. We build up the movement and we are at the forefront but the sad thing is that we don't lead the movement."

"Women like Sadha Lakshmi, Eeshwari Bai and Shanta Bai played important roles in first phase of Telangana movement in 1969. The person behind this movement was Prof. Keshava Rao Jadhav. But unfortunately they are not remembered by anyone because of caste discrimination," he said.

Senior journalist Mallepalli Lakshmaiah lamented that even after so many years of Independence and in spite of sacrificing so many lives, Dalits continue to face many problems. He traced Dalit Panther movement that started in Maharashtra to the American Black Panther movement of 1966.

Referring to the recent controversy over the usage of the word 'Dalit', he said the word carried a sense of emancipation, inspiration and revolution.

According to Sangiseti Srinivas, also a journalist, Dalits' awareness has improved from the



PIC: NCERT

time of British rule in Hyderabad.

"British army was stationed at Bollaram and Tirumalgi at that time. Dalits worked under the British as chefs and grooms. While laying the railway line, Dalits were threatened, and coerced to work as railway kooli and other staff. Soon, Dalits became some of the first people to learn English. The first female English teachers were Dalits," he said.

He reminded the audience that Bhagya Reddy Verma, B.S. Venkat Rao, Shyam Sundar, and Arige Ramaswamy were the four pillars of Dalit movement in Telangana.

Prof. R. Limbadri, Vice Chairman, Telangana State Higher Education Council, said it was sad to see antagonism towards Dalits. "Though Hyderabad has seen many agitations, still Dalits are facing honour killing."

He also discussed the contri-

bution of communists to Dalits movements, mentioning Nimmappally Poratam where Dalits fought against bonded labour and Akali poratam.

He described Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who inspired Hyderabad agitations, and Osmania University, the first Indian University to award Ambedkar a Doctorate, as the two highlights of the State's heritage.

Errolla Srinivas, Chairman, Telangana SC/ST Commission, asked every student to have complete knowledge of the Constitution, and advised students to follow Dr. B.R. Ambedkar philosophy. He explained why reservation is necessary and said that it is individual responsibility to repay through service to society.

Several professors, research scholars and students attended the seminar, organised to mark the Centenary of the Department of History.

Workshop boosts English skills of research scholars

Bipasa Dash

A 10-day workshop on English language and life skills gave a leg up to scores of research scholars and students of Science College.

Organised by the University College of Science, in association of Department of English, the idea was to address the difficulty with English language that several PhD scholars were facing.

The workshop dealt with skills required for writing articles, reports, scientific papers and theses.

"The Head of the English department, Prof. T. Vijay Kumar and staff designed the programme. They imparted valuable, detailed lectures on use of phrasal verbs, paragraph writing, transition signals, making statements in research data and effective grammar usage," said Prof. Venkata Ramana Devi, Dean, University College of Science.

Around 160 students from different science departments have attended and benefitted from this programme, she added.

The classes were conducted from 4 to 14 September 2018 at Prof. M.L.N. Reddy Memorial Conference Hall.

Addressing the valedictory ceremony, Prof. S. Ramachandram, Vice Chancellor, asked PhD students to update their language and communication skills to cope with technology which is growing at a fast pace.

Speaking to *Courier*, Prof. T. Vijay Kumar, Head, Department of English, said, "I am definitely planning to organise more such workshops. We are the human resource and we are willing to reach anyone who need resource."

Tagore Auditorium set to regain its grandeur

Mahesh Thota

The yesteryears feel of the Tagore Auditorium will soon be a thing of the past, with the University authorities going for a full-scale renovation of this premier venue of major events.

The folded-plate slatted structure was spruced up in April to serve Osmania University centenary celebrations. It has since got 120-tonne centralised airconditioning, modern projector, premium flooring and wall panelling, and Bose acoustics -- all worth a cool Rs. 3.22 crore.

Funds from the Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan, a central government scheme, have come in handy for the purpose, said Prof. Gopal Naik, Director (Infrastructure).

"With the keen interest of the Vice Chancellor, the renovation is taking place," he said.

Senior professors recall times when the auditorium played host to discussions and debates by visiting faculty from JNU and other places. The visitors' cars would queue all the way up to Law College and Krishnaveni



Complete overhaul of the interiors is on the cards.

PIC: BY ARRANGEMENT

hostel.

Until the 1970s, the auditorium was also used to screen movies for students. Those days, the auditorium had side fans, two speakers and a projector used on rent basis. It had undergone minor changes occasionally, but never the thorough overhaul that is being undertaken now.

"Wall art for the auditorium with suitable theme is at the dis-

cussion stage and it will be implemented soon," Prof. Naik said. A compound wall, which costs up to Rs. 70 lakh, will also be built soon, he added.

Pigeons are a problem here. They are being kept away from lobbies with a pigeon net. The roof top is also covered with nets, said Prof. Naik.

"When the auditorium is used by private entities, they used to leave waste all around

the auditorium. Now, we have added a provision mandating waste clearance. Only then, the security deposit of Rs. 50,000 will be returned to them," he said.

The auditorium was inaugurated in 1968 and has been named after Rabindranath Tagore to commemorate a letter he had written to the Nizam praising the idea of a University offering education in Urdu.

Hit TV shows leading to a hollow generation

Lalithya Emani

Youngsters are always the most dynamic and vibrant groups among the demographics of any country. It is needless to state that they seek the attention of every competitor in all segments, be it fashion and lifestyle, culinary, sport, education, entertainment etc. Television channels in the recent past have focused much more on youngsters, and special conceptual shows relating to youth have risen in recent times. Consequently, the audience watching these shows have increased manifold.

The Broadcast Audience Research Council, in its recent newsletter, "What young India watches", states that 52 per cent of youngsters in the age-group of 15-22 years spend their typical week-day - weekend on TV, watching gameshows/talks and film-based content, while only 5-8 per cent watch news- / business-based content.

Further, studies about the content preferences of youth in rural, urban, metro cities reveal that film, talk and reality shows command greater viewership while nature / tourism / news / business are the least watched.

In a bid to cash in on these trends through more revenue and sponsorships, several media channels have customised their programmes to target youth. There is



a spurt in the number of programmes in local and national channels, where youngsters are in the audience or on the centrestage at the request of the celebrity host.

Some extremely popular programmes on a leading channel are loaded with sexist and chauvinistic remarks, showing lewd and bawdy content to grab the attention of the youngsters. One spe-

Viewpoint

cific programme is designed on the premise that one gender is superior to the other and portrays a competition between girls and boys who in the course programme shout down the other.

There is an unprecedented

craze for such shows among teens. This is spurred by their desire to see themselves on the screen. The one who performs well or behaves bizarrely or gives crazy, disgraceful and "bold" answers (not bothering that it gets streamed across the country and their parents would watch) emerges as the hero of the day. The constantly streamed promos of that episode,

which go viral, instil a sense of false heroism. This audacity and hype is making youth binge watch such programmes.

Any takeaways from watching such programmes? "Just for fun and entertainment", quips a youngster. This opinion is echoed by several others. But do we need this entertainment that indiscreetly builds up a gender bias, loose morals and a care-a-damn attitude towards women?

Gone are the days of wholesome entertainment and serious programming. Do we care to watch discussions on serious issues pertaining to youth or the nation? How many of us have the appetite to watch national geographic and animal planet to know the nature and intricacies of nature and wildlife?

Why aren't the channels resolute in presenting programmes on our culture, heritage, history, heroes of the nations without bothering about TRPs?

The answer to these questions is simple. We have succumbed to this new, instant pleasurable programmes sidelining the qualitatively sound programmes rich in content. Media houses ought to do some soul searching and think in terms of wholesome entertainment which also instruct. Else, there is a danger of breeding a hollow generation.

New book demystifies scientific names of mammals

South Asian Mammals, a new Sbook by Dr Chelmala Srinivasulu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Zoology, was re-released by the Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram recently.

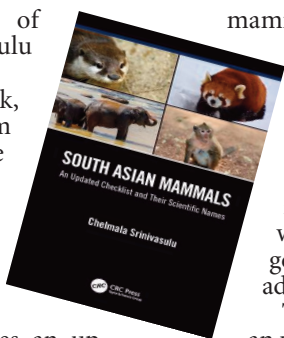
Published by CRC Press (an imprint of Routledge), the book explains the scientific names of 524 mammal species and sub-species, and includes names that are now out of vogue.

"For instance, the origin of the English word 'bandicoot' and scientific name *Bandicota* for large-bodied rats is derived from the word '*pandi-kokku*' by which these animals are known in Tel-

ugu speaking areas of India," Dr Srinivasulu explained.

Praising the book, Prof Ramachandram said it would be "helpful to experts and commoners alike who think scientific names of animals are Greek and Latin."

The book provides an updated list of all known mammals from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is expected to be useful to researchers interested in



mammalian diversity in South Asia, the author said.

Although intended for people interested in mammals, wildlife, and zoology, this book will appeal to logophiles in general, he added.

The 356-page book is an updated version of an earlier edition that the author brought out along with Bhargavi Srinivasulu, and published by Springer in 2012.



Author Dr Chelmala Srinivasulu (right) with Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram

Good response to OU stall at FICCI summit

Osmania University's stall at the three-day FICCI Higher Education Summit in New Delhi recently saw a good response. The expo is aimed at facilitating international students to study in Indian higher educational institutions. Osmania is already second in the country in terms of in-take of international students. Officials of the University Foreign Relations Office managed the stall and provided information to the visitors on the courses, infrastructure, academic atmosphere, on the campus.

Osmania Courier

Bimonthly Laboratory Newspaper | Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under No. 8132/62 | Published since 1954 | Vol. LXIV No. 2
Dated November 12, 2018

Editorial Trainees

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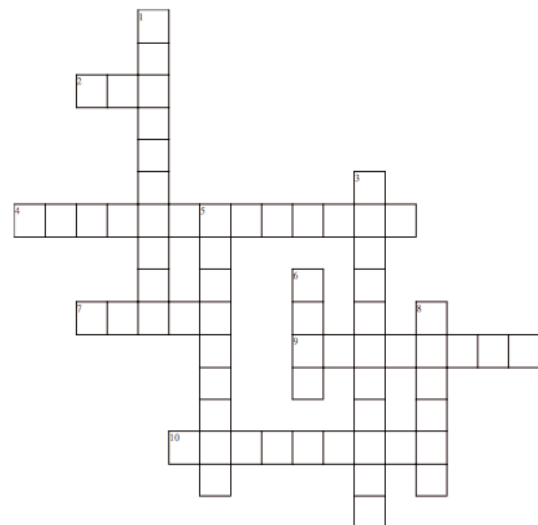
CLUES

Across

2. What, When, Why, Where, How...?
4. Newspaper in 1780.
7. Black with a hue.
9. The action of seeking to influence a legislator on an issue.
10. Product, Price, Place and...?

Down

1. Misleading information used to promote one's own cause.
3. Name your source.
5. First Printing Press.
6. Vertical movement of the camera.
8. Name of the writer.



Awardees Speak



PROF. S.V. SATYANARAYANA

'Inspiration comes from different sources'

B. Sahaja Reddy

On his immediate reaction, Prof. S.V. Satyanarayana, Chairman, Board of Studies, Department of Commerce, told *Osmania Courier* that he felt very happy on receiving the award. "My colleagues and students were very excited."

On his approach, Prof. Satyanarayana said all students were basically good and hardworking. His motive has been to see that students come up in life.

"There are some students who say that we have come up in life because of you but I don't believe in that," he said. "Many factors influence the growth of the students. That is, inspiration comes from different sources."

As far as the methodology of teaching is concerned, nothing can replace blackboard and chalk-piece, he says. The other techniques used for teaching are just complementary.

He advised students to retain moral values and to be disciplined. "These are the basic things which nothing can substitute," he said, adding, "To everyone's surprise the rural people are shining more than the urban people."

Prof. Satyanarayana said that 85 percent of the growth of an individual depends on the individual himself while the motivation for the remaining 15 percent motivation comes from others. A teacher can mould the student to only about 10 - 12 percent, while the rest depends upon the self motivation.

PROF. Y. PARDHASARADHI

'Set goals, have faith, put efforts'

Sindhu Janagam

Prof. Y. Pardhasaradhi believes that excellence starts with clarity about the goals we set for ourselves, one's abiding faith in one's vision and resilience and conviction in one's efforts.

He is currently Director, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies, and Professor of Public Administration. He specialises in administrative theory, urban governance and e-governance.

Prof. Pardhasaradhi, who served Central University of Jammu on invitation as Head, Department of Public Policy & Public Administration and Dean, School of Social Sciences, said he envisioned an "academic environment that promotes pedagogic re-

On the eve of Teachers Day this year, six professors from Osmania University were selected for the Best Teacher Award. They were felicitated by Education Minister Kadiyam Srihari at a grand ceremony on 5th September at Ravindra Bharathi. *Osmania Courier* gets you their immediate reactions as well as their perspectives on teaching, and vision for the University.

PROF. M. KUMAR

'Awards have added to the responsibilities'

M. Praveen Kumar

It is not everyday that a professor receives two prestigious awards in a span of 10 days. But that has just happened to Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Controller of Examinations, Osmania University.

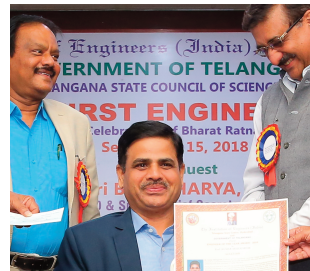
Prof. Kumar achieved this rare distinction by receiving the Best Teacher award from the Government of Telangana and Engineer of the Year from the Institution of Engineers India.

He has expressed happiness at the recognition of his services by both the Government of Telangana and the Institution of Engineers India. He adds that his responsibilities have increased further and that he would do his utmost to take the university



ahead on the path of development.

Though Prof. Kumar initiated many technology-based reforms in the examination branch, he wears the hat of a civil engineer proudly. He has supervised 78 Masters dissertation and five PhD theses so far. Currently eight more student-researchers are pursuing PhD under his guidance. He is a member of many committees ad-



vising the Governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and also the Government of India.

Prof. Kumar has presented papers at national and international levels and has delivered more than twenty keynote lectures on various platforms. Prof. Kumar has also authored three conference proceedings and two books in civil engineering.

PROF. B. SHASHIDHAR RAO

'Award was never a passion for me'

Spandana Nimma

Prof. B. Sashidhar Rao said, "I was never passionate about awards and I feel that I deserve this award because of the University."

Prof. Rao received his MSc in Biochemistry from University of Hyderabad in 1981 and PhD from Osmania University, in 1987. Later, he worked as Technical Research Officer in Food and Drug Toxicology Research Centre, National Institute of Nutrition.

He said, "The first challenge



when I joined the Department of Biochemistry, Osmania University, was to mobilise money for my research. Within two years, I have gain some money and started my research and I have never looked back and my aim is to give many and more researchers to this country."

Earlier, he also served as Chairman & Coordinator, Forensic Science Unit of the Department. After serving as Chairman, BOS, and Head, Dept. of Biochemistry, he is at present the Coordinator for Promotion of University Research & Scientific

Excellence (PURSE-II) programme, sponsored by Department of Science Technology, with a funding of Rs. 8 crore. Earlier he served as coordinator for two major university programmes, UGC-Centre for Excellence in 'Bioprospecting of Certain Medicinal plants for health care' with a research grant of Rs. 2.8 crore, and DST-PURSE-I programme with a funding of Rs. 9 crore."

He has published in national and international journals, with an H-index of 28 and I10 index of 66 with over 3,000 citations. He has also authored five books and published over 125 research papers in IF journals.



PROF. K. STEVENSON

Big plans for Journalism Dept.

C. Sanjay Kumar

It has been proved once again that good work gets recognition. Prof. K. Stevenson, Head, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, started his teaching career in the year 1986. Since then, he started climbing the stairs of success, adding the Best Teacher award to his list of achievements this year.

Enhancing the research work, strengthening the Department with professionals and providing consultancy to different government and private entities are part of his vision for the Department.

These apart, he also wants to see a newspaper or a news channel run completely by the alumni of the Department. Further, Prof. Stevenson wants to shape the International School of Journalism, reaching out to the Third World countries offering affordable education.

Regarding the research work, University Grants Commission has accepted Prof. Stevenson's research proposal on Media Credibility and granted Rs 1.83 crore through Center for Advanced Study (CAS) - Phase II. The Department also want to set up a National Centre for Documentation. It wants to document literature on media from across the country. To facilitate this, it wants to group different institutions into research clusters.

The department initiated the paper work to recruit more professionals. All the required work is done according to the University and State Govt recruitment policies. "Once the recruitment is done, the Dept. reaches its full capabilities," he said.

With the increased potential the Department wants to provide consultancy services to different public and private players. It can provide its services in various domains like mass communication, Public relations, Advertising, reporting and so on. The dept also want to provide self finance courses. Through this it can generate revenue and renew itself, he said.

According to Prof. Stevenson, the alumni of the Dept are in prestigious positions in the industry. The idea of setting up a media channel by the alumni was put forth to them. As like-minded people come together, the idea takes shape, he said.

PROF. SHIVARAJ

'We need intellectual bent, with values'

"Every institution of higher learning should have a vision for itself and for the nation. My own vision is to inculcate an intellectual temperament that also safeguards cultural, ethical and human values," said Prof. Shivaraj from the Department of Chemistry.

Prof. Shivaraj served on numerous committees tasked with a wide variety of agendas, ranging from academic reforms to cultural programmes for centenary celebrations.

His research area is bio-coordination chemistry dealing with design, synthesis, crystal structure and biological activity of metal complexes.

He has published 79 research articles in national and international journals and has received a



funding of Rs 70 lakh for five research projects.

His research group received young scientist, best poster and best oral presentation awards in national and international conferences. He is an Executive member of Indian Council of Chemists (ICC) from 2011.



search to deepen culture of innovation."

He was a University topper at master's level and had done his doctoral research on participatory development. In 2011, he successfully completed a national project on e-governance focusing on institutional capacities and performance, covering almost 13 provincial governments.

Moses Kondety*(From Press Club)*

The *Boisterous BCJs* were up for a Silver Jubilee Reunion. Come on, you must be kidding!

Suma looks fresh as a flower; Bobby is slim as a cigarette; Kotesw resembles his self in 1993; Murthy can still get into a classroom in the Cellar; Cop is sturdy as ever, so are Shetty and Ved barring the greying sides; Pallavi hasn't changed much too, just that her kids are in college...

Well, Chiru has lost a lot of his once-flowing hair (_a la_ Yanni's) and I've put on quite a bit of fat around my waist. But are we into our Late 40s? Naaah! Early 20s at heart at least, as was evident at the Press Club of Hyderabad on September 29, 2018.

Vibrant faces, happy hugs, an avalanche of anecdotes and cheerful chums filled the air-conditioned enclosure at the Press Club, of which our own Chiru has been the President, twice over!! The applause has to be stronger...

Stevenson Sir, Srinath Sir, Padmaja Maam – the ones who taught us – were there in atten-

dance too, and in awe of their students, who had risen to ravishing ranks. Doc (P. Rajashekar Reddy is the right hand man of the Chief Minister), Prabhu (Pathankot, is handling a few colleges down in AP), N. (Srinivas Rao wields power in Delhi and is a frequent visitor to Parliament courtesy his lofty position as additional secretary to the (former) Union Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju), among others were the prominent ones.

At cake cutting, Cop placed his Glock on the table, triggering whoops of delight as we celebrated a big shot and took pride in him being one of us. That was followed by speeches by the lecturers and a brief talk by Chiru who made sure everyone's presence was acknowledged – I have a feeling he'll be a shrewd politician soon, and his hairless head reassures me that he will!

Greeting the teachers followed and after a while, they had left. We were in a class yet again, 20+ you see...

Fun flowed – songs, and some shaking of ageing bones. This was a case of the flesh being weak but the spirit more than willing. So the ones who had, let



(Standing, from left) Vasudeva Murthy, Srinivasulu, P. Rajashekar Reddy, K Moses, Rentala Jayadeva, S. Koteswara Rao, N. Srinivas Rao, Dasari Srinivas, Anil, Srinivas, R Ravikanth Reddy, Krishna Ved, and Anil K. Jyothi. (Seated, from left): Ms Sumalatha, Prof. Padmaja Shaw, Prof. K. Stevenson, Mr M Srinath Reddy and Ms Pallavi.

their hair down... (sorry Chiru) ...and boy we rocked! In the T-shirts we had ordered for the Reunion (Chiru's idea again). It was so very nice of Santosh to make a video call from Detroit (USA) and speak to each one of us, wishing us well and being part of the celebration digitally. God bless you ra Santosh!

Then, Shetty dashes through

the air from Ahmedabad. He landed at Hyd and drove straight to the Press Club, late at night. Just wanted to be there with us! Shetty...

... and then we spoke of Huma, Sowmya, Gunjan, Sindhu, Meena, Pooja, Lakshmi, Nagamalles and others who couldn't make it because of various reasons. But we knew

they were with us in spirit!

That was a lovely evening that reminded us that no matter how old we grow, once we meet our pals, we're back to our youth! Trust it stays that way...

(The writer, currently Sports Editor in Deccan Chronicle, is an alumnus of the Department of Journalism, Osmania University.)

Revisiting the alma mater, reconnecting with old buddies

M. Praveen Kumar*(From the Department)*

The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication has been established in 1954. It has seen many batches of students come in as greenhorns and turn into professionals. One such batch -- the class of 93 -- has recently celebrated the silver jubilee year by visiting the Department on the 29 September.

The then students and current (hopefully) mature professionals were found hugging one another, exchanging pleasantries, and cracking jokes. The boisterous backslapping soon turned



Some of the batchmates at the Department with Prof. Stevenson

into quiet reminiscing about the old days. They recalled the tele-news board now, turned into a notice board, which served as the platform to hone their editing and newspaper design skills. Feeling sad at the sight of a heap of old Remington typewriters, one commented that these rickety machines helped them learn type writing.

A guided tour of the Department facilities, most of them envied the present crop of students for the state of the art infrastructure - the newslab with Mac systems and the television studio complete with Video cameras, green matte and the control

room with the audio and videomixers and a editing suite.

These alumni had a ready host in Prof. K. Stevenson, who gave them a guided tour of the department. While the classrooms with the beautiful wooden furniture (with places / slots for inkpots) brought out some nostalgia, the computer lab and the media suite may have caused a touch of envy.

They were also found enquiring about old staff members from Mr Subhan (himself an oldtimer). Shortly later, they headed off to the Press Club, to continue the festivities.

Scholars turn extra cautious as 'copy-paste' checks tighten

Courier Bureau

Research scholars in the University have turned cautious with their theses as the plagiarism checks become more stringent. Beginning this academic year, the University has adopted Turnitin, a premium anti-plagiarism software, to scan drafts of theses for material copied from other sources.

This crucial step to inculcate academic integrity seems to be having an impact. The number of theses being submitted for evaluation has come down from around 120 in April-May to less than 100 during the July-October period.

According to Dr A.S. Chakravarthy, who is in charge of

the anti-plagiarism initiatives, 30 to 40 per cent similarity was being found in theses in general, while there have been a few cases of similarity coming close to 60 per cent. "Most of the similarity is being found in introduction, literature review and discussion chapters," he said.

The similarity threshold set by the University is at 25 per cent for now, and would be brought down to 10 per cent in due course, he added. "This would be in line with the guidelines of University Grants Commission."

Research supervisors also confessed that scholars used to copy and paste material in their theses. With the anti-plagiarism checks, both scholars and supervisors are being extra cautious.

Process

Research scholars will have to submit a soft copy to the concerned supervisor, who will in turn send it to the co-ordinator of the software for plagiarism.

The thesis would be approved for submission if the similarity index is within the set threshold. Otherwise, it would come back to the scholar with instructions to remove, edit, or rewrite the problematic portions.

Dr. Chakravarthy said some scholars were sending one version of their thesis with fewer pages for plagiarism check, but were later submitting an expanded / full version at the examination branch for the evaluation. This practice has also been curbed now, he said.



WHICH WAY IS THE POLITICAL WIND BLOWING?

Courier attempts to read the pulse of city voters

There is a general sense of satisfaction with the performance of the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti government, with an anti-incumbency sentiment prevailing in certain pockets, report a group of MCJs who went on a field reporting assignment on November 1.

Students from first and third semesters branched out to four Assembly constituencies — Amberpet, Musheerabad, Secunderabad and Uppal — bordering the University campus to assess the mood of the voters.

Key findings:

- Opinion is divided among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of government's welfare schemes. Non-beneficiaries of any targeted welfare schemes expressed unhappiness over local governance and unresolved civic issues. However, Aasara pensions and Kalyana Lakshmi / Shadi Mubarak schemes seem to be quite popular even among non-beneficiaries.

- Performance of the government is not the only factor determining people's mandate. The assessment of the constituents on their respective MLAs and the relative strengths of individual candidates are also crucial in shaping the voters' choices. This trend is observed both in segments held by the ruling party as well as the opposition.

- There is an undercurrent of voter apathy, which is now considered a characteristic of urban voters, especially among the middle classes.

- The citizens seem generally happy over the improved power situation and the maintenance of the law and order in the city. But they expressed dissatisfaction over bad condition of local roads.

- A majority of the voters have not appreciated the need for premature dissolution of the State Assembly. But they said it would not, in any way, impact their voting choices.

Uppal: Progress pushes aspirations

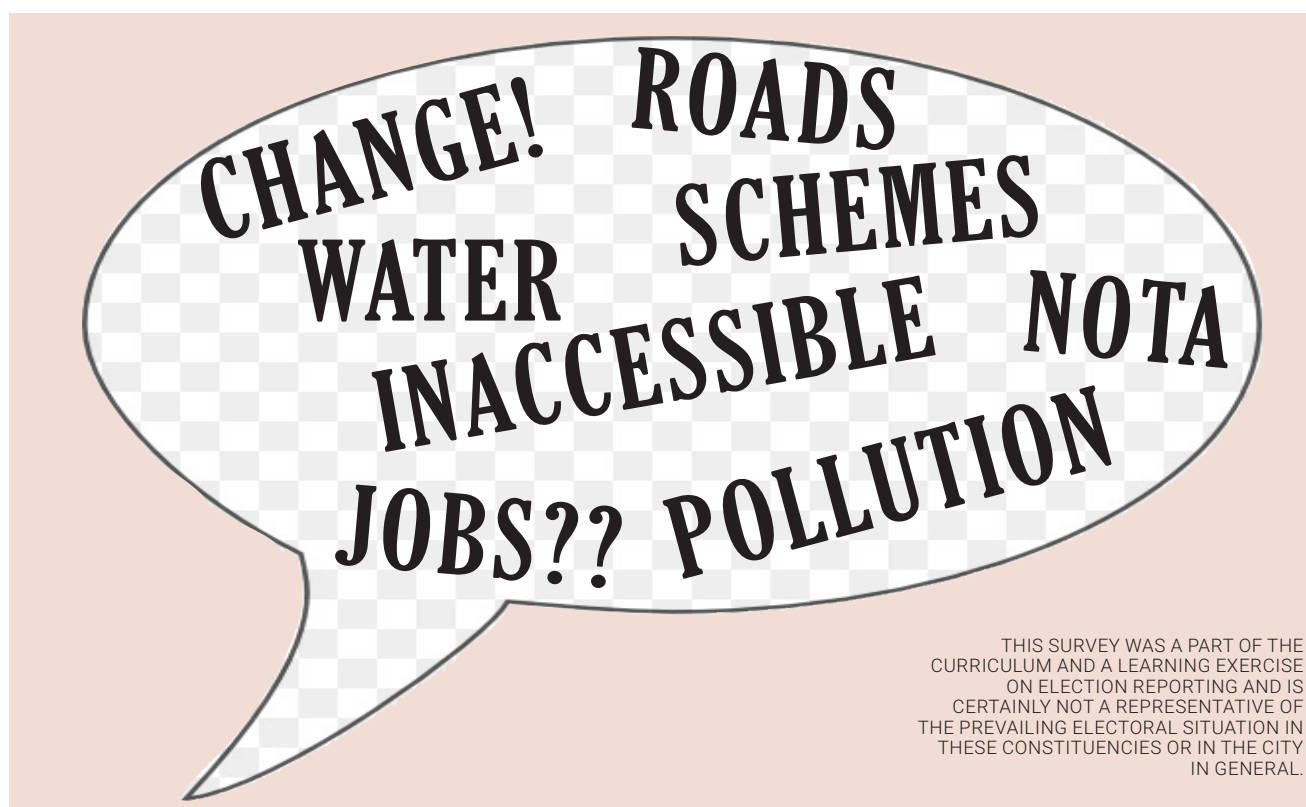
Residents of Uppal are happy with the construction of Uppal–Narapally corridor, metro train services, widened roads, and regular water and power supply, and want these to be continued on a larger scale. Municipal workers and the elderly expressed their support to the government for its schemes such as Aasara pensions and increase in the wages.

NVSS Prabhakar, MLA in the dissolved Assembly, was able to score well with the developmental works. However, there is an opinion that if the MLA were from the ruling party, the performance would have been much better. So, for a change, some people interviewed by *Courier* said they were open to voting for an alternative this time.

Premature dissolution of the Assembly, lack of a say in the decision making for leaders in the lower strata; non-fulfilment of promises fully were the qualms of a few others who wanted a change in the regime.

When people were asked about their problems, many complained about the menace of wine shops on the main roads. A woman entrepreneur who runs her stall on the Uppal–Nagole road said there has been a rise in the number of wine shops in the past one year and the constant fighting among drunk men was a huge irritant for passersby, especially women. It is said to get worse during festival times.

The survey found that voters are vigilant and analytical about the governance irrespective of their background. (Reported by E. Lalithya, Ch. Sai Priya, A. Vennela, P.V. Sravani, Japhet O. Gyamfi and Mariam Ouammou)



Musheerabad: Voters apathetic

Voters of Musheerabad Assembly segment are divided in their opinion on the TRS government and the sitting legislator Dr K. Lakshman from of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP).

A quick survey of Bholakpur and Zamistanpur areas revealed that people favour TRS over other parties. However, voters were disinclined towards the MLA as he has not addressed some of their concerns.

V. Sunitha, a housewife said, "No one helped us to get a voter/ration card. Though we had applied for them a year ago, there is no response from the officials." Adds Mounika, also a housewife, "Due to the indifference of the local cor-

porators, slum areas like Pochama Basti in Adikmet are very far from the basic facilities. The drinking water gets mixed with drainage in our area and children are the worst affected."

Lakshmi, a housewife, said, "We submitted 30 applications for construction of toilets but only four were approved. Each toilet is used by three to four families."

Hanumanth Rao, a fish-seller, said "Industrial units in Bholakpur release chemical waste and plastic onto the roads. No one took the opinion of the residents who got affected with various diseases. Water released from tanneries gets mixed with drinking water."

Padma, a resident of Golkonda cross-roads said, "We are not included in any government schemes. The MLA has not showed up during the last four years." Some people are disinterested in elections and they said that they would prefer NOTA. Some youth from Musheerabad stated they were concerned about the unemployment problem, rather than about which party is going to rule. They said the government is no different compared to the previous government on jobs.

(Reported by Deepika Pasham, B. Sahaja Reddy, Spandana N., Bipasa Dash, Soujanya M., Manoj Vamshi, Sindhu J. and S. Samyuktha)

Amberpet: Public support, civic problems coexist

A majority of the residents seemed satisfied with the state government but said they would vote for sitting MLA G Kishan Reddy from the opposition BJP. That is because he is said to be accessible and resolves issues, irrespective of one's socio-economic background.

With regard to the state government, people are happy with the policies like Aasara, Kalyana Lakshmi, Kanti Velugu, etc. Most of the people who have directly benefitted from the schemes are willing to support the ruling party.

However, there is dissatisfaction about promises such as 12 per cent reservation for Muslims, and double bedroom housing. Many of them did not agree with the decision to dissolve Assembly.

Though people are generally satisfied with the work of sitting MLA, they also wanted some local issues addressed. Residents said there was no proper maintainance of roads and no speed breakers where needed. GHMC workers were not collecting garbage regularly.

People are also facing traffic problem and the flyover work has not been started. Law and order situation is also not in control. Some people said the MLA is concerned with problems of areas where his party is in good position.

(Reported by E. Sandeep, B. Natraj, K. Bhanu Prakash Goud, T. Mahesh, K. Mahesh, M. Subhakar and R. Sursingh)

Secunderabad: Mixed prospects at best

There is mixed opinion from voters in Secunderabad. Though people are happy with the TRS government, they seem to be dissatisfied with the local MLA Padma Rao. Some voters of the constituency complained that MLA turned Minister remains inaccessible, unlike in the past.

People who are direct beneficiaries of the government schemes are inclined towards voting for TRS. Support among people who are not direct beneficiaries, who include the middle class and the working class, is lukewarm at best.

Early dissolution of the Assembly has been disappointing, said some voters, and complained that the grievances remain unresolved even after four years. "No government is taking care of local issues like underground sewage, traffic, roads, etc, which are of utmost importance," says Kavita, a student.

Some people see the TDP as a party dominated by Andhra leaders and given its tie-up with Congress, they want to vote for TRS as they want to support local leaders.

B. Ashok, a government employee, says redrawing of districts is the only good move which KCR has implemented during his regime. "Though I am in favour of Mahakutami (grand alliance), I want to vote for TRS because it is too short time to judge the performance of present government," said Prabhakar, a priest.

(Reported by Akhil Kumar Narayana, Girish D., Y. Bhargavi, G. Navya, and Tanushree Das)

On campus, all that glitters is greenery

Tanushree Das

Trees are the poems the Earth writes upon the sky, we fell them down and turn them into paper, that we may record our emptiness – Kahlil Gibran

Thanks to regular bouts of monsoon rains this semester, the University campus has turned lively green everywhere one looks. Lucky are the boarders who live in this proverbial Nature's lap. And so are the walkers from neighboring colonies who dot the campus roads in the evenings.

With the city around it in the grip of overpowering pollution, Osmania campus can boast of being almost the only place with fresh air and vast green cover. Some of the greenest spots include the popular Landscape Garden, the relatively invisible Deer Park, the patches of wilderness across the campus and the so-called 'birthplace of all movements' -- the Arts College lawns.

"I have been a regular walker for the past 20 years. It feels good to see the greenery come back after the dry patch of the past few years," says Ganesh, an active octogenarian.

Though the campus was home to dry deciduous vegetation all along, the green cover got a big boost in 1986. Project Green Belt, which started that year, promoted intensive plantation of trees. Over 1,000 acres of land had been planted with trees, paving the way for the successful creation of lung space for people and other fauna.

In 1991, around 60 acres of land located behind Microbiology and Genetics departments was earmarked for Deer Park. The access-restricted area now hosts over 200 deer, up from 60 at the time. Later, the Landscape Garden was developed over 35 acres as an accessible park for students and staff.

Several bird watchers also visit the campus. As per their observation, lots of new species of birds have been sighted due to the de-



velopment of campus greenery.

However, till recently, the green cover has been on a downward curve to what some of the subject experts estimate as 55 per cent. In fact, the lush green landscape garden that old timers recall has ended up as a pale patch with much of the greenery drying out.

Some of the reasons for the depletion of trees include ageing and illegal cutting of trees. According to the University authorities, there have been several instances of the trees being cut by some for firewood. This, they concede, was due to a lack of effective surveillance and control mechanisms. But with the recent check on illegal tree cutting and a good monsoon, the greenery is returning to the campus.

PICS: GIRISH D.



Botanical Garden is a living lab

K. Bhanu Prakash Goud

The Botanical Garden, maintained by the Department of Botany, is a matter of pride for Osmania University.

Spread over nearly 11 acres, the garden is a rich resource, with a variety of plant species including at least 20 medicinal plants, several endangered species, and research plants.

The main idea behind the establishment of this garden is research. Numerous research scholars and faculty members visit the garden for their research.

Some of them have recently come from Gulbarga University, Nagpur University, and Kakatiya University.

Several renowned scientists like Prof. Niranjana from Gulbarga University, Prof. Ashok Bhatnagar from University of Delhi, Prof. N.S. Atri from University of Patiala, Prof. N.B. Rajyam from University of Delhi, Prof. Chowdappa, Director, Central Plantation Crop Research, visited the garden for their research.

The garden contains rare plants of Telangana region. As part of Haritha Haram programme recently, B. Janardhan Reddy, Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, and Priyanka Verghese, Indian Forest Service officer, also visited the garden.

Prof. Nirmala Babu Rao, Head, Department of Botany, said, "Students participate in the activities of the garden, and many of them excelled in their life after studying through practical methods here."

"The garden has nation-wide recognition that it is a herbarium HY status, which is given to only a few botanical gardens in the country," she said.

It has been observed that fencing has been damaged in some parts, making the garden vulnerable to stray cattle and to people looking for an isolated spot for consuming alcohol.

"We will further develop this garden and it should be a masterpiece among all botanical gardens in the country," Prof. Babu Rao said.

PIC COURTESY: TELANGANA TODAY

